

# **Jacumba Sponsor Group Final General Meeting Minutes Of 11-22-2011**

## **MEETING PRELIMINARIES**

- Mark Ostrander called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.
- Mark requested silencing all Cell Phones and Pagers and then led the pledge of allegiance.
- Mark led the Roll Call: Shirley Fisher (absent), Howard Cook (present), Steve Squillaci (present) Mark Ostrander (present), Pat Fauble (absent). Mark established that there was a quorum.
- Secretary Howard Cook read the Draft minutes from the previous meeting of 10/27/2011. Corrections to the Draft Minutes were made as follows: The Oak Borer infestation rate in the county was corrected from sixty percent to sixty five percent, Proper name spelling for Lorrie Ostrander and Tammie Daubach were corrected, Mark Ostrander 's new ham radio license was changed to read as an additional license, The date for the next Revitalization meeting was changed to December 06, 2011, Boulevard was eliminated from the list of firehouses without emergency generators, the words "cell phones" were added to information for obtaining "reverse 911" capability for cell phones, the sheriff and not Tammie Daubach was defined for weekly visitation for the aged, infirm etc.. Mark Ostrander moved to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Steve Squillaci , Vote taken to approve the minutes, three in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mark Ostrander discussed the new San Diego County Department of Land Use and Planning (DPLU) ordinance on Wind Energy. He told us that this new ordinance covers both large and small energy projects. He directed interested parties to the counties DPLU website for information on the new ordinance.
- Revitalization Committee update by various Revitalization Committee members as follows:
- Revitalization; Community Garden Project by Mark Ostrander – Mark advised the group that we are assured of getting \$2300 funding from the Mountain Empire Collaborative. The first request is for money for fencing and irrigation systems. Second request will be for raised beds and gate.
- Revitalization; Meals On Wheels by Tammy Daubach - Meals On Wheels service will start December 01. Sam will work on including pet feeding for all applicable recipients' pets. This can be a cost issue, as people in the backcountry tend to have multiple dogs.
- Revitalization; Lake Project by Howard Cook – Reported that Dave Landman was still working his way through the Spa, Spring/lake and surrounding lands foreclosure process. He reminded the group about the Audubon and State/ Federal Wildlife visit and meeting at Howard and Dani's home as reported at last months meeting. He reported receipt of the promised proposal by Keiller Kyle of State/National Audubon. He read from portions of the proposal as follows which stressed tourism and town revitalization: "Restoring Jacumba Lake could begin attracting tourists back to town and begin the process of rebuilding tourism in the town attracted to its cultural and natural attractions. This lake was once a regular field trip site for avid birdwatchers in Southern California looking for Tricolored Blackbirds and other desert residents. Restoration and attraction of Tricolored Blackbirds will once again put it on the map as a go to spot. In addition, the lake could once again become a fishing spot for locals and tourists as well as provide outdoor recreation to guests staying at local hotels and the thermal spa". Howard said that most of the decision-making regarding the Lake restoration would rest with Dave Landman and the Spa. The Spa foreclosure process in turn could affect this.  
Revitalization; Ham Radio by Mark Ostrander – Mark announced that Ham Radio Training was starting and now available. He pointed out the role of ham radios in providing news and communication to remote communities like Jacumba in the event of an emergency. It takes about \$169 to get started (equipment). Mark is working on a grant to get radios for emergency use. The higher end systems cost \$5,000-\$6,000 as they have higher frequencies and better antennas. Can also be used to broadcast TV and radio.
- Revitalization; Emergency Generator status by Mark Ostrander – Generator cost would be in the \$50,000 to 60,000 range. Mark said he was still working on it.

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- Revitalization Murals-Dani Cook reported that she had done some preliminary work on the costs but had set the project aside to work on the eye gnat issue. She also stated that she hoped to get together with Dave Landman to get an idea of his vision as some of the properties that the murals would go on were his. She also asked that Tammy determine which public buildings might be good targets for the Boulevard murals and to be thinking of what them they felt was appropriate for their particular area (horses? American flag? Local flora and fauna etc.)
- Mark reminded the Revitalization Committee of their next meeting on December 06 at 6:30 to be held at the Library.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no correspondence items.

### **UPDATES AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

- Border Patrol Update – The Border Patrol did not attend
- Sheriff report - The Sheriff did not attend
- Eye Gnat Report by Bill Pape and Danielle Cook - they reported the following
  - Special Vector Control Meeting
    - Bill Pape hired an independent Entomologist to help answer the question –Why is Jacumba still plagued by eye gnats when Bethke claims his collar traps have gotten rid of 99.1%?
    - The entomologist established that the traps were only measuring population shrinkage and not nuisance abatement. The entomologist duplicated a scientific nuisance abatement measurement tool (eye gnat netting) initially developed by renowned entomologist Mir Mulla. This was employed in Jacumba and it showed that in spite of low ye gnat populations in collar traps, there were still significant populations left to swarm citizens.
    - Bill requested and was granted an audience with Vector Control, Jim Bethke, Amber Tauric (From Supervisor Jacob’s office) and a contingent from Jacumba (Bill Pape, Howard and Dani Cook and entomologist Ken Osbourne. The meeting was to discuss the issue and present the eye gnat netting findings and implications. A follow up recap was sent to the meting participants with a list of requests from JAG for action
  - November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of Dan Diego County Supervisors
    - County Supervisor meeting in SD held on 11/9 to discuss the eye gnats was well attended by Escondido and Jacumba activists. Bill Pape, Howard Cook, Danielle Cook, Moon Barnett, Bill Denntt and Cheryl Furr all spoke on how the eye gnat situation was devastating Jacumba
    - The initial motion proposed by Dianne Jacob was to have eye gnats declared a vector (in other words, to have County laws match up again with State). Unfortunately the Supervisors were inundated by mails and letters from the organic Food activists rallied by Bill Braumer of Be Wise Ranch, the organic farmer in Escondido generating eye gnats there. The result is that Dianne and Pam Price-Slater [Escondido Supervisor] felt they lacked the votes to make eye gnats a vector again so they proposed turning the issue over to the Farm Bureau to come up with recommendations (stronger measures including a “hammer” for non-compliant farmers).
    - The supervisor vote was four to zero in favor of stronger measures with one supervisor [Ron Roberts] abstaining as he owns an organic farm. They voted to turn the problem over to a committee made up of Vector control, Farm Bureau, representatives from the affected communities and the two farms in question plus the Board Of Supervisor House Legal Counsel. Dani Cook and Bill Dennett were selected to represent Jacumba.

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- There will be a series of 3-4 meetings and then the Committee will report back to the supervisors in January as to how they recommend handling the situation short and long-term (Declare eye gnats a vector? Set up an appeals board similar to that used with chicken farms? Have sanctions?...)

### **Jacumba Community Meeting Thursday 11/10 Highland Center**

- Supervisor Jacob and her team plus Vector Control representatives and Jim Bethke came to Jacumba to discuss the above and take questions
- The meeting was well attended
- Boulevard, Jacumba, La Posta Fire Safe Council and Cert by Mark Ostrander – no report
- SD Gas and Electric – SDG&E did not attend
- Next meeting - Howard Cook moved to skip the December Sponsor Group, seconded by Steve Squallaci, After a brief discussion, it was decided to set the next meeting time at 01/24/2012

### **NON-AGENDA PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

- None

**Meeting was Adjourned 7:12 PM. Next Meeting January 24, 2012 6:00 pm Jacumba Library**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Howard Cook-Sponsor Group Member and Secretary